

Application No 09/864,197
Amendment dated: October 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated July 6, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A tip section for customizing a cue stick, the tip section comprising:

(a) a single-piece tapered metallic tube having a hollow body terminating in a first end and a second end, said hollow body being defined by a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use, said wall having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, said second end permitting connection to a butt section of the cue stick;

(b) a cue tip, having a threaded body, for attachment at said first end; and

(c) a plurality of insertable augmenting elements for interacting with locating means, within said hollow body, the locating means including an interior taper in said hollow body for interaction with correspondingly tapered insertable augmenting elements sized for their selective placement at desired locations along the interior taper of said hollow body to permit selective placement and fixation of said plurality of augmenting elements within said hollow body to selectively adjust at least two of weight, balance, flex and tactile feedback of the cue stick to customize the cue stick in accordance with a user's preference.

Claim 2 (previously amended) The tip section of claim 1, wherein said plurality of insertable augmenting elements include a selection of weights and stiffening members.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously amended) The tip section of claim 1, wherein the tube is composed of a metal selected from the group consisting of: lightweight steel, polished aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously amended) The tip section of claim 2, wherein said stiffening members are

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between 1 and 10 inches in length.

Claim 7 (previously amended) The tip section of claim 2, wherein said stiffening members are composed of materials selected from the groups consisting of wood, plastic, high-tensile metal, lightweight steel, aluminum, magnesium alloy and stainless steel.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously amended) The tip section of claim 1 wherein said exterior of the tube is provided by one of: chrome-plating, polished aluminum, titanium, high-gloss finishing, and polishing.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) A kit for customizing a tip section of a cue stick, the kit comprising:

(a) a single-piece tapered hollow metallic tube having a first end and a second end, said first end having a first attachment site for attaching a cue tip having a threaded body, said second end having an attachment site for connection to a butt section of the cue stick, the hollow tube having an exterior providing a substantially smooth surface, the hollow tube having a wall capable of self-support and of carrying required physical loads arising during use; and

(b) a plurality of augmenting elements, including weights and stiffening members, contoured for insertion and fixation within the hollow tube at selectable positions determined by cooperation with locating means within the hollow tube to selectively adjust at least two of weight, balance, flex and tactile feedback of the cue stick for customization of the cue stick in accordance with a user's preference, said augmenting elements being selectively sized to correspond to desired locations along an interior taper of the hollow tube.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously added) The kit of claim 11, wherein said locating means include a selection of insertable locators for selectively positioning and spacing said augmenting members within the hollow tube.

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Claim 15 (previously added) The kit of claim 11, further comprising a selection of cue tips.

Claim 16 (previously added) The tip section of claim 1, wherein said locating means include insertable locators for selectively positioning and spacing said augmenting members within the hollow body.